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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Completes Roof Reconstruction at 'Kiril i Metodij' Primary School in Stojakovo

USAID's Primary Education Project (PEP), in cooperation with the Stojakovo school community and the Municipality of Bogdanci, organized a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 8th to celebrate the successful reconstruction of the Kiril I Metodij school roof. This activity is one of 77 school renovations that have already been carried out by PEP. By 2011, over 120 schools will be renovated, which is nearly one-third of the primary schools in Macedonia.

"This new roof will benefit many generations of students. But the Primary Education Project is working with this school and others in a number of ways to create classrooms for the 21st century," said Keith Prenton, USAID PEP Chief of Party. "We provide teacher training together with modern educational equipment to help create friendly, safe and attractive classrooms to help students succeed in their studies. We have also developed guidance for school directors and municipalities, to help them arrange their new computers appropriately in different kinds of classrooms and for different ages of students."

The Primary Education Project supports the creation of better learning environments and decentralization of the responsibility for school facilities to municipal governments. The project also works to increase access to and use of information technology and to improve the quality of math and science education in Macedonian primary schools.

The Primary Education Project, implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), works with all public primary schools in Macedonia. The project seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase students' employment skills. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts, as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit

<http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.